

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02150 021651Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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-----021719 115089 /40

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6794
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, VE, US
SUBJECT: GOV REJECTS NEW YORK TIMES CHARGE PEREZ WAS
CHANNEL FOR CIA FUNDS

SUMMARY. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE LATE MARCH 1 ISSUED A
STRONG COMMUNIQUE CATEGORICALLY DENYING CHARGES MADE IN NEW YORK
TIMES ARTICLE OF THAT DATE TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT
PEREZ HAD ACTED AS A CHANNEL FOR CIA FUNDS WHILE INTERIOR
MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

1. CARACAS DAILIES MARCH 2 CARRIED COMPLETE TEXT OF MARCH 1
NEW YORK TIMES STORY THAT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES
PEREZ AND FORMER MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ACTED AS
CHANNELS FOR CIA FUNDS WHEN THEY WERE MINISTERS OF
INTERIOR OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. AFTERNOON OF
MARCH 1 PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE ISSUED CATEGORIC
AND INDIGNANT DENIAL OF NEW YORK TIMES STORY WHICH
WAS HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGES IN MARCH 2 CARACAS DAILIES.
MARCH 2 EL UNIVERSAL AND ULTIMA HORA ALSO REPORT THAT THE NATIONAL
LEADERSHIP OF ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD) IS CONSIDERING STAGING A
DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING THE NEW YORK TIMES ALLEGATIONS
CONCERNING PRESIDENT PEREZ. AD LEADERS REPORTEDLY WILL
DISCUSS A DEMONSTRATION WITH PEREZ ON MARCH 3, AND THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CARACA 02150 021651Z

OTHER POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE ASKED TO JOIN IN.

2. TEXT OF GOV DENIAL FOLLOWS.

BEGIN QUOTE THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DENY THE NEW INFORMATION
PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S EDITION, MARCH 1, OF THE NEW YORK

TIMES CONCERNED PRESUMED PAYMENTS OF THE CIA (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT) TO PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.

VENEZUELAN PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THIS NORTH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS BEEN PRESUMED TO BE SERIOUS, HONEST AND DEMOCRATIC, HAS NOT PUBLISHED THE LETTER WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, MR. JIMMY CARTER, SENT TO PRESIDENT PEREZ WHICH DENIES CATEGORICALLY THE BASE IMPUTATION.

IN THE NEW VERSION OF THE INFAMOUS SPECIE TO BRING INTO DISREPUTE THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA, THEY (NEW YORK TIMES) MENTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER "STATING THAT THE REPORTS WERE GROUNDLESS." THE NY TIMES DID THIS IN ORDER TO MALICIOUSLY SLANT THE ABOMINABLE CALUMNY USING TESTIMONY OF A FORMER CIA AGENT WHO SAID HE HAD WORKED IN VENEZUELA WHEN CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR RELATIONS.

THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC DENIES IN THE MOST CATEGORIC MANNER THIS NEW INFAMY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES. THE PERVERSE JOURNALISTIC STORY IS NOW TRYING TO INVOLVE, NOT PERSONALITIES, BUT THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS OF VENEZUELA IN THE ILLICIT AND ANTI-NATIONAL ACT OF HAVING RECEIVED MONIES FROM THE CIA. THIS MAKES EVIDENT THE AGRESSION AGAINST VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY AND EXPOSES THE DANGEROUS MANEUVER THEY ARE TRYING TO CONTRIVE-TO DIMINISH CONFIDENCE IN AND THE CREDIBILITY OF AS WELL AS TO BRING INTO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 02150 021651Z

DISREPUTE THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.

THE COARSE PLOT DID NOT EVEN TAKE SUFFICIENT CARE TO VERIFY CERTAIN AFFIRMATIONS WHICH TURN OUT TO BE ABSOLUTELY FALSE. QUOTING FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES: "INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAID THAT THE CIA HAD ASKED BOTH COUNTRIES, MEXICO AND VENEZUELA, TO CARRY OUT INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OF COMMON BENEFIT DURING THE TIME WHEN LUIS ECHEVERRIA WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN MEXICO AND CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OCCUPIED THE SAME POSITION IN VENEZUELA. AND THAT THE CIA HAD HELPED DEFRAY THE COST."

THE EX-PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, LUIS ECHEVERRIA, WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR OF MEXICO AT A DIFFERENT TIME THAN THAT IN WHICH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ HELD THAT POSITION IN VENEZUELA.

IN MAKING A MOST VEHEMENT PROTEST ABOUT THIS INSIDIOUS AND DESPICABLE MANEUVER IT IS REITERATED THAT NEITHER DIRECTLY NOR

THROUGH SOME OTHER OFFICIAL WAS MONEY, EQUIPMENT,
OR WEAPONS RECEIVED FROM ANY FOREIGN
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT
OF VENEZUELA, TRUE TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEPTS AND CAREFUL
OF ITS DECORUM, DID NOT RESORT TO, NOR DID IT HAVE TO RESORT
TO, CLANDESTINE SOURCES TO OBTAIN RESOURCES, AND CERTAINLY NOT
FROM ANY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT
AND OTHER MATERIEL WAS CARRIED OUT LEGALLY AND IN ACCORD WITH
THE PROPER PROCEDURES; AND THE SECRET PAYMENTS WERE PAID OUT
THE CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATION IN THE NATIONAL BUDGET WITHOUT
EMBARRASSING UNCLEAN ALLIANCES WITH ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

FINALLY, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS
OF VENEZUELA COULD IN SOME WAY BE COMPROMISED IN THESE ILLICIT
AND SHAMEFUL DEALINGS WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS REJECTED. END
QUOTE.

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PAGE 04 CARACA 02150 021651Z

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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, VE, US, NY TIMES, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
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